

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04066 01 OF 04 191426Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CU-04 OPR-02 SIL-01

LAB-06 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 OIC-04 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 AGR-20 /219 W

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O R 191330Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5426

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04066 01 OF 04 191426Z

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III MAF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 PHNOM PENH 4066

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS PFOR MOPS CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT -- MARCH 19, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE GKR WAS DEALT A SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL SETBACK WHEN KC FORCES ON MARCH 18 OCCUPIED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE HISTORICALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF OUDONG, 35 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHNOM PENH. FANK HAS OPERATIONS UNDERWAY TO RELIEVE OUDONG, WHOSE ISLOATION BY ENEMY CUTS ON ROUTE 5 MADE IT A TEMPTING TARGET FOR KC FORCES STILL SEARCHING FOR A SIGNIFICANT DRY SEASON VICTORY. IN PHNOM PENH, GKR AUTHORITIES GOT THROUGH THE TOUCHY MARCH 16-18 ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK'S OUSTER UNSCATHED, AS FEARED STUDENT-TEACHER DEMONSTRATIONS DID NOT MATERIALIZE. SIHANOUK TOOK THIS OCCASION TO MAKE A HASTILY ORGANIZED BUT WIDELY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO THE PATHET LAO IN SAM VEUA. ELDER STATESMAN SIM VAR RETURNED FROM TAKYO TO LAUNCH HIS PEACE PROPOSALS, WHICH HAVE AS YET STIRRED UP LITTLE INTEREST. THE SECOND PHASE OF THE GKR CONSTRICTION PROGRAM MAY HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND, AS THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS DURING THE WEEK INCREASED NOTICEABLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 04066 01 OF 04 191426Z

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. AFTER INITIAL HESITATION WHICH PROMISED TO GIVE THE INITIATIVE TO RADICAL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, THE GKR ARRIVED AT A FORMULA THAT DEFUSED THE TENSE MARCH 16-18 PERIOD WHICH COVERS THE ANNIVERSARIES OF SIHANOUK'S DEPOSITION AND OF LAST YEARS'S GRENADING OF A STRIKING TEACHER'S MEETING. THE CABINET OFFICIALLY BANNED PRIVATE CEREMONIES EXCEPT THOSE HELD AT WATS

BUT POLICE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY AS SECONDARY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MET AT LYCEE 18 MARS TO COMMEMORATE THE DEAD FROM THE MARCH 17, 1973 GRENADING AT THE FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY. IN ADDITION THE GKR CANCELED A "YOUTH NIGHT" SCHEDULED FOR LYCEE DAUN PENH WHICH HAD SPARKED A SHARP DENUNCIATION FROM THE DAUN PENH STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION AND RAISED THE POTENTIAL FOR UGLY INCIDENTS. INSTEAD THE GKR SPONSORED A WELL-ATTENDED FOUR-DAY PROGRAM OF SPORTS AT THE OLYMPIC STADIUM WHICH ENDED MARCH 18 IN A MIXTURE OF OFFERINGS TO MINKS, ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES AND SPORTS FINALS. OFFICIAL GKR CELEBRATION OF THE MARCH 18 FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK'S DEPOSITION WAS LOW-KEY.

3. AS PART OF PRE-MARCH 18 ACTIVITIES LON NOL GAVE HIGH-RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY OFFICERS A BRIEF RESUME OF THE STATE OF THE NATION AND APPEALED FOR CLOSER CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION. HE WARNED AGAINST CORRUPTION AND GAMBLING BY CIVIL SERVANTS AND URGED THE TIMELY AND JUST PAYMENT OF MILITARY SALARIES AND DEATH BENEFITS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN TROOP MORALE. THE PRESIDENT ASKED BUSINESSMEN TO DEAL FAIRLY AND STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS TO CONTINUE WORK IF THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES.

4. MOST TEACHERS WENT BACK TO SCHOOL MARCH 19 BUT ARE MEETING AND TALKING WITH EACH OTHER RATHER THAN TEACHING. THE RETURN IS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS, AND AN APPEAL FROM THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CENTRAL COMMITTEE. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ORCHESTRATED WELL-PUBLICIZED MEETINGS MARCH 11-12 WITH THE CABINET TO TACKLE INFLATION, A SUBJECT OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO STRIKING TEACHERS, AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH ABOUT 200 TEACHERS AND EDUCATION OFFICIALS MARCH 14 IN AN EFFORT TO GET TEACHERS BACK ON THE JOB. THE KHMER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (AMCEK) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET MARCH 12 AND URGED TEACHERS TO RESUME WORK FROM MARCH 19-APRIL 5 AT WHICH TIME THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04066 01 OF 04 191426Z

ASSOCIATION WOULD CONVENE A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION COVERED THE HOME FRONT MARCH 16 BY URGING PARENTS TO PRESSURE TEACHERS AND/OR HELP PROVIDE FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS TO RETURN TO WORK. PARENTS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT PRESSURE TEACHERS, ARE AS FINANCIALLY STRAPPED AS TEACHERS AND CANNOT PROVIDE THEM EXTRA MONEY.

5. NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTED TWO TEACHERS IN DESCREET SWEEPS BEGINNING MARCH 15-16. THEY FOUND A PRO-SIHANOUK BANNER IN THE HOME OF YOEUR KIM CHHORN WHO IS FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF AMCEK AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SECONDARY TEACHERS' STRIKE COMMITTEE. MAO TAT, THE OTHER TEACHER ARRESTED, WAS A

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04066 02 OF 04 191417Z

44

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CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04066 02 OF 04 191417Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 PHNOM PENH 4066

MEMBER OF THE RECENTLY DISSOLVED PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL COMMITTEE; CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE NOT YET KNOWN.

6. THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN
FINALLY BEGAN TO PRODUCE RESULTS AS PHNOM PENH FURNISHED 526
NEW RECRUITS DURING THE WEEK MARCH 12-18. AS OF MARCH 18
(THE 158TH DAY OF THE CAMPAIGN) THE CAPITAL HAD RECRUITED
16,025 OF 23,276 SXEN CONSCRIPTED COUNTRY-WIDE.

7. ON MARCH 18 FORMER PRIME MINISTER SIM VAR, IN PHNOM PENH
TO REAFFIRM HIS RECENT RESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO, GAVE
THE PRESS HIS FIVE-POINT PEACE PLAN CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL
OF VC/NVA TROOPS, A CEASE FIRE, CESSATION OF FOREIGN AID TO
BOTH SIHANOUK AND LON NOL, AND THE FORMATION OF A NON-PARTY
GOVERNMENT TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS FOR A NEW CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.
ALL WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF NEUTRAL ASIAN STATES
ASSISTED BY UN FORCES. HE MADE MUCH OF THE NEED TO REDRAW THE
1972 CONSTITUTION WHICH HE BELIEVES IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE
OTHER SIDE AND VAGUELY POINTED TO FACTIONALISM ON THE OTHER
SIDE AS EVIDENCE THAT THEY COULD FURNISH CANDIDATES FOR A NON-
PARTY GOVERNMENT. COMMENT: SIM VAR HAD ALREADY LAUNCHED THE PLAN
INFORMALLY IN SEVERAL FORUMS INCLUDING A LETTER TO LEADING
KHMER FIGURES, THEREBY DILUTING ITS IMPACT NOW. WE DO NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 04066 02 OF 04 191417Z

EJECT PUBLIC REACTION TO BE AS STRONG AS THAT FOLLOWING
SON SANN'S JANUARY 12 PROPOSALS.

POLITIACL (EXTERNAL)

8. THE SENATE CONFIRMED JOHN GUNTHER DEAN'S NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC ON MAR 13.

9. THE GKR FACES POSSIBLE CHALLENGES TO ITS DELEGATIONS AT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. DURING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR THE GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE ON MAR 13, SEVERAL STATEMENTS OF RESERVATION WERE MADE ABOUT THE CREDENTIALS OF THE GKR BUT THESE SEEMED TO BE FOR THE RECORD ONLY AND ARE PROBABLY NOT A FOREWARNING OF A CHALLENGE IN THE FINAL PLENARY SESSIONS. IT APPEARS THAT THE DELEGATES TO THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION SCHEDULED TO CONVENE APRIL 9 WILL HAVE TOO MANY OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THEM TO TAKE TIME FOR A KHMER CREDENTIALS CONTROVERSY. THE GKR, FOR ITS PART, IS MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE TO AVOID SPARKING A CHALLENGE TO ITS REPRESENTATION. FINALLY, THE QUESTION OF KHMER CREDENTIALS MAY ARISE AT THE 30TH SESSION OF ECAFE ON MAR 27 ALSO, AND MANY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO REITERATE THE USG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. IN ADDITION, GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM DEPARTED MAR 19 ON A VISIT TO SIX ASIAN NATIONS TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT FOR GKR EFFORTS TO HEAD OFF THE GRUNK CHALLENGE.

10. AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TOLD HIS PARLIAMENT MAR 12 THAT MARSHALL JOHNSTON, CURRENTLY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GKR WAS BEING REASSIGNED, AND NOTED THAT MOST EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH ARE ADMINISTERED BY CHARGES D'AFFAIRES. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO A MP WHO HAD ASKED IF THE SITUATION MEANT THAT BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD PREJUDGED THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

11. SIHANOUK LED A GRUNK/FUNK VISIT TO THE "LAO LIBERATED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04066 02 OF 04 191417Z

ZONE" AT SAM NEUA FROM MAR 11-15. THE DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED A SIZABLE CONTINGENT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF SIHANOUK'S PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL STAFF, WAS MET BY PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND SUBORDINATES AND SUBJECTED TO THE USUAL ROUND OF BANQUETS, CONSULTATIONS, SPEECHES AND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS. DURING THE VISIT, SIHANOUK'S FIRST TO THE "LAO LIBERATED ZONE", THERE WERE NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF 1970, THE "/MILITANT SOLIDARITY" OF THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES AND THEIR "BRILLIANT VICTORIES". SIHANOUK TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO LASH OUT AT THE PRC AND THE USSR,

REFERRING TO COUNTRIES BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN "OURS"
WHICH PREFER TO COMPROMISE WITH "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" OR
"EVEN KNEEL DOWN BEFORE IT, IF NOT LITERALLY THROWING THEM-
SELVES INTO ITS ARMS". HE STRESSED THAT IF THERE "MUST BE
NEGOTIATIONS", THEY CAN ONLY BE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GRUNK:
GRUNK WILL NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH THE PHNOM PENH "QUISLINGS"
WHOSE PLACE IS NOT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, BUT "INEVITABLY ON
THE GALLOWS". HE POINTED OUT THAT CAMBODIA, THE LAST TO ENTER
THE INDOCHINA WAR WILL "LOGICALLY" BE THE LAST TO "RECOVER
PEACE". HE ADDED OPTIMISTICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT CAMBODIA,

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04066 03 OF 04 191440Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04066 03 OF 04 191440Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OR 4 PHNOM PENH 4066

"AFTER FOUR YEARS OF STRUGGLE HAS ALMOST ARRIVED AT THE
END OF THE TUNNEL".

12. SIHANOUK AND COMPANY MOVED ON TO HANOI ON MAR 16,
WHERE THEY WERE MET BY HIGH LEVEL NORTH VIETNAMESE DELE-
GATION INCLUDING PHAM VAN DONG, TRUONG CHINH AND TON DUC
THANHOW PRG AND LPF REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO PRESENT. AT
A BANQUET ON MAR 17, SIHANOUK EXPRESSED IN FLOWERY TERMS
HIS APPRECIATION TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR ORGANIZING
HIS "HISTORIC JOURNEY TO LIBERATED CAMBODIA" LAST YEAR AS
WELL AS THIS ONE TO SAM NEUA, THUS ENABLING HIM TO VISIT
ALL THREE PARTS OF "POPULAR, REVOLUTIONARY AND MILITANT"
INDOCHINA. COMMENT: THE SAM NDPA VISIHSAPPEARS TO HAVE
BEEN HASTILY ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE SIHANOUK AND SOOUPHANOUVONG
A LST OGORTUNITY HQ
ORE THE FORMATION OF THE LAOS COALI-
TION GOVERNMENT TO REAFFIRM THE "SOLIDARITY" OF THE PARTIC-
IPANTS IN THE PARIL 1970 INDOCHINESE PDKPLES SUMMIT CON-

REFERENCE. THEMES DURING BOTH THE SAM NEUJ
AND HANOI STOPS
ACCORDINGLY CENTERED ON THE MUTUALITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04066 03 OF 04 191440Z

OF THE "STRUGGLE" OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES, AS WELL AS
SIHANOUK'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING THIS UNITY. THE KC "IN
COUNTRY" EFFORT WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING. THUS FAR
WE HAVE SEEN LITTLE COVERAGE OF THE VISIT FROM FUNK RADIO.

13. GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK PURSUED HIS
PROGRAM OF VISITS TO STATES ALONG THE PERSIAN GULF. AFTER
THE CONCLUSION OF HIS STAY IN KUWAIT (SEE LAST WEEK'S
KHMER REPORT), HE VOYAGED ON TO BAHRAIN ON MAR 8 AND QATAR
NKON MEU 11.

14. GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA CONTINUED TO MAKE PERIODIC
REFERENCES TO THE RECENT
DEFECTORS IN PARIS (SEE PREVIOUS
KHMER REPORTS). THE STORY HAS
BEEN PICKED UP IN SOME
WESTERN PRESS ARTICLES WHICH STATE INACCURATELY THAT ALL
THESE MEN LEFT CAMBODIA IN THE LAST 2-3 MONTHS (IN FACT,
MOST HAVE BEEN GONE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS, AND SOME CONSID-
ERABLY LONGER THAN THAT).

GRUNK/FUNK (INTERNAL)

15. THE KC N
OPA
YNDA MACHINE WAS OBLIGED TO TURN OUT
MOSTLY FABRICATED STORIES THIS WEEK (THE KC PUCTORY AT
OUDONG HAVING OCCURED AT THE END OF THE PERIOD). SEV-
ERAL BROADCASTS CLAIMED THAT AMERICAN ADVISORS WERE LEADING
GKR FORCES AT KAMPOT, ONE ADDING THAT THE US PLANS TO
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MILITARY
"ADVISORS" IN CAMBODIA
FROM 3,500 TO 10,000. IN OTHER
BROADCASTS, THE RADIO INVENTED A MAR 7 SHELLING BY THE
CPNLAF OF CHANZAR NOM AND SIRIK MATAK'S RESIDENCE, DESC GED
A VISIT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOCZTO KOMPONG
CHHANG WHE
B HEGHIS SHOWN AROUND BY HIS "RUNNING DOGS",
AND STATED THAT AIR FRANCE'S AND UTA'S
CANCELLATION (QSHICH TSSHGOT OCCURREDL OF THEIR PHNOM PENH FLIGHZDO
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PAGE 04 PHNOM 04066 03 OF 04 191440Z

PITORS OFCHEIR LAST MEANS TO FLEESKHE
COUNTRY".

ECONOMIC

16. AS OF MAR 16, THERE WERE SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF ALL CIVILIAN
POL PRODUCTS ON HAND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KEROSENE, TO
MEET BASIC CIVILIAN DEMANDS UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEXT
CONVOY ON MAR 23. ASSUMING CONSUMPTION ON A RATIONED
BASIS, THE SUPPLY TARGET HAS BEEN REACHED FOR BOTH PETROL AND
LUBRICANTS. THE ROAD CONVOY SYSTEM CONTINUES TO SUPPLY
BATTAMBANG REQUIREMENTS FROM THAILAND ON A REGULAR BASIS,
ALT 6;
SUMMIT IS STILL AWAITING THAI GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION
FOR ITS CONVOY
OPERATIONS FOR THE
NEXT TWO WEEKS OF MARCH.

17. A MARKET SURVEY OF BATTAMBANG COMMODITY PRICES WAS
CONDUCTED ON MAR 15. SIMILAR SURVEYS, USING THE SAME
ITEMS AS INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR
PHNOM PENH PRICE REPORTS,
ARE TO BE TAKEN IN ALL MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF CAMBODIA.
THE BATTAMBANG LISTS INDICATES THAT PRICES
FOR MANY ITEMS
RUN LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF THOSE IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA.

18. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON MAR 13 TOTALLED 33,259
METRIC TONS OR THE EQUIVALENT OF A 51-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL
DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 650 METRIC TONS PER DAY. ACTUAL DAILY DISTRI-
BUTION AVERAGED 655 METRIC TONS. ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM
PENH CARRYING 4,770 METRIC TONS, WITH THE NEXT ONE SCHEDULED TO
ARRIVE ON MAR 23.

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 4066 SECTION 3 OF 4 TEXT GARBLED
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04066 04 OF 04 191450Z

44
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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04066 04 OF 04 191450Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 PHNOM PENH 4066

19. ON MAR 15 THE US ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL DEPOSIT AN ADDITIONAL \$1 MILLION TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND (ESF), RAISING US DEPOSITS FOR 1974 TO \$3 MILLION. THIS FOLLOWS A STATEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT THE US INTENDS TO MATCH OTHER DONORS TO THE ESF IN 1974 UP TO \$17.5 MILLION.

MILITARY

20. ON MAR 16 AT LEAST SIX ENEMY BATTALIONS ATTACKED THE FANK GARRISON AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF OUDONG, LOCATED 35 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ALONG RTE 5. BY MAR 18, THE 1300 TERRITORIAL DEFENDERS AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 7TH DIVISION HAD RETREATED TO A SINGLE ENCLAVE ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE TOWN WHERE THEY ARE NOW UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. OUDONG IS NOW VIRTUALLY ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF THE KC WHO ARE REPORTED TO BE BURNING BUILDINGS AND ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE THE POPULATION (ESTIMATED AT 20,000). A RELIEF FORCE FROM THE NORTH, TWO BATTALIONS FROM THE 45TH BRIGADE OF THE 7TH DIVISION AND ONE BATTALION FROM THE KOMPONG TRALACH SUBDIVISION ARE, STALLED ABOUT 3 1/2 KILOMETERS FROM THE CITY, AND ANOTHER THREE BATTALIONS OF THE 80TH BRIGADE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RELIEVE THE TOWN FROM THE EAST AFTER DISEMBARKING FROM NAVAL CRAFT ON THE WEST BANK OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 04066 04 OF 04 191450Z

TONLE SAP ABOUT 5-6 KILOMETERS AWAY. COMMENT: OUDONG IS IMPORTANT NOT AS THE SEAT OF ONE OF THE MINI-PROVINCES CREATED RECENTLY BY LON NOL, BUT FOR HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS REASONS. A FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL, ITS CENTRAL PAGODA WAS USED BY PRINCELY NOVICES AND CONTAINS IMPORTANT RELICS. THE STUPAS ON THE HILL SOUTH OF TOWN CONTAIN THE ASHES OF PAST KINGS; THE FANK COMPANY AT THE SUMMIT HAS REPORTEDLY EXFILTRATED, LEAVING THE SITE OPEN TO THE ENEMY. BUDDHIST LEADERS HAVE REPORTEDLY APPEALED TO LON NOL TO RECAPTURE THE TOWN.

21. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, FANK WAS ABLE TO HANDLE ENEMY INITIATIVES OR STAY ON THE ATTACK ITSELF. THE KHMER NAVY RESPONDED QUICKLY TO CONTROL ENEMY PRESSURES ON THE ISLANDS IN THE MEKONG NORTH OF THE CAPITAL, AND THE SITUATION ALONG THE BASSAC TO THE SOUTH STABILIZED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE 80TH BRIGADE COULD BE WITHDRAWN AND DEPLOYED ELSEWHERE. IM KAMPOT, FANK COMPLETED ITS REINFORCEMENTS, BUT THE ENEMY

HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BROUGHT IN ADDITIONAL UNITS WHICH SERVE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE TOWN. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF THE ENEMY TROOPS IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA MAY BE MOVING BACK TO THE HINTERLANDS TO COUNTER FANK EFFORTS TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF TERRITORY AND POPULATION AROUND TAKEO, KOMPONG CHHNANG, KOMPONG THOM AND OTHER PROVINCIAL CENTERS.

22. RTE 1 WAS STILL CUT ABOUT 35 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH TOWARD NEAK LUONG. RTE 4 IS OPEN FROM THE CAPITAL TO KOMPONG SPEU. THE MEKONG CONVOYS CONTINUE TO THROUGH WELL.
ENDERS

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